



Memorandum

Date: March 23, 1999

To: Federal-State Small Group

From:  Lester A. Snow

Subject: Efforts/Schedules to Complete the EIS/EIR with a Focus on the Draft EIS/EIR. Draft Preferred Program Alternative for Purposes of Impact Analysis.

Several schedules are attached. First, an overall schedule is provided for completing the EIS/EIR and signing the ROD by June 6, 2000. A second more specific schedule focusing on the period between April 1 and release of the Public Draft follows. Items needing an OK from the Policy Group are in *italics* and items requiring Agency interaction are in **bold**. Finally, a schedule is provided which lists issues for discussion/decision, by the Policy Group, between now and the release of the Public Draft. It is expected that this list will expand. The list of issues are itemized on the basis of when they will be presented to the Policy Group.

Each of the listed issues on the last schedule will be discussed within existing workgroups and the Small Group before being presented to the Policy Group. These discussions are intended to ensure that the Agencies are in sufficient agreement with the content of the various program plans such that the Policy Group will be able to OK the printing of the Public Draft at their May meeting.

Also attached is a draft of the Preferred Program Alternative. This description is meant for purposes of impact analysis. Information in the December, 1998 Revised Phase II Report serves as the source document for this description. With one exception, we have not added but rather deleted information in order to make the description as specific as possible.

In order to capture the potential consequences of a diversion near Hood, we have included such a facility in this description. Please note however, that the description makes it clear that such a facility would not be constructed until such time as an evaluation has considered how to operate the Delta Cross Channel in conjunction with a new diversion

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Federal-State Small Group
March 23, 1999
Page Two

structure to achieve the optimum balance between improving Delta water quality while minimizing adverse fishery impacts. If and only if this evaluation indicates that a screened diversion would help achieve CALFED's goal to provide good water quality for all beneficial purposes, and can be operated without adversely impacting fishery populations in the Delta, would a pilot facility be constructed. This pilot facility would be the subject of further study on whether the diversion channel and structure should continue to be used, and if so, what the operational rules and optimum size of the diversion should be.

The last attachment is a list of the various documents that will be released as part of the Public Draft EIS/EIR.

Attachments